

REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the office action dated February 15, 2005. By way of this amendment, claims 1-4, 8-11, and 15-17 have been canceled, without prejudice, and claims 5, 7, 12, 14, 18, and 19 have been rewritten in independent form. Thus, claims 5-7, 12-14, and 18-20 are presently pending in this application. No new matter has been added by the amendments to the claims. Based on the foregoing amendments and the following comments, the applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the application.

Claims 1-4, 8-11, 15-17, and 19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Great Britain Patent No. 1 536 362 ("the British patent"). Claims 1-4, 8-11, and 15-17 have been canceled without prejudice, rendering the rejection thereof moot.

However, with regard to claim 19, applicants respectfully point out that the British patent does not disclose or suggest a retaining member that comprises a cylindrically-shaped portion of a packing retainer. The examiner appears to have recognized this fact, since the examiner has indicated that claims 5 and 12 contain allowable subject matter. Under Section 2131, the MPEP directly states: "A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *See, Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Accordingly, the applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 19, as amended.


CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. Attached is a check in the amount of \$600 to cover the fee for three additional independent claims.

Reconsideration of the application and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

MARSHALL, GERSTEIN & BORUN LLP

By: 
Gregory C. Mayer
Reg. No. 38,238
Attorneys for Applicants

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6300 Sears Tower
233 South Wacker Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60606-6357
(312) 474-6300